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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

C O P Y

Gottlob Berger

Landsberg/Lech, July 29th, 50

To

the Members of the Clemency Board:
Mr. Moran, Mr. Snow, Mr. Peck

28, Prinzregentenstrasse

Munich

Sirs,

The latest crimes of Bolshevism have proved to all the world again exactly what its real nature and aims in world politics are. What an amount of criminal actions, as defined by Control Commission Law No. 10, for which the Soviet Union is to be held responsible directly or indirectly have been committed since 1945: criminal actions against peace and humanity, the victim of which was mostly the German people, and crimes/war quite recently which remind one of Katyn! Knowing of these alarming facts I do hope to be justified in submitting a petition for clemency.

As a badly wounded man I returned to my Swabian villages in 1918. Being a teacher, I only wanted to serve the idea of peace now and to strive for a better future by promoting genuine understanding among men and peoples. But I realized how year after year greater parts of the German labouring classes - innumerable youths among them - were attracted by the heresy of a "dictatorship of the proletariat" and the promise of a "paradise of workers". There were armed strikes, riots and bloodshed, political murder and terrorism in whole provinces, e.g. in the Vogtland, the Ruhr area, Central Germany, Munich and Hamburg in those years after the first world war, and they clearly displayed the reality of Bolshevik ideology.

But all this was only meant to be one step on the way to the realization of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Numerous refugees from countries the peoples of which had unfortunately fallen victims of Bolshevik regimes, fled to Germany, they came from Finland, Russia, the Baltic States and Hungary. Their reports about the effects of Bolshevism were dreadful to hear: its enticing theory of a classless paradise of workers and farmers had certainly not been realized. That is why I - as well as innumerable people in Germany and all over the world - decided to fight

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this scourge of humanity. As a pedagogue I thought it was my duty to get to the bottom of the idea of Bolshevism, and the result was that I felt I could not do anything but fight it. The crimes which the Soviet leaders had committed during their revolution and the years after were hardly credible: many thousands of priests and bishops, big landowners and factory owners, scientists and engineers had been murdered. But worst of all was the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Anti-Bolshevist workers and farmers.

In the meantime the number of criminal actions by Communists and that of victims of the latter steadily increased in my mother country. The Government did not seem to be powerful enough to prevent Bolshevist terrorization of the German people in a legal way. Thus I became a member of that political party which had proclaimed the fanatical fight against Bolshevism as a means to save our German fatherland from chaos.

The administrative and military ranks I held in the Third Reich were bestowed upon me only because of my reckless fight against Bolshevism, and all my actions and neglects were caused by this attitude exclusively.

When the war against Russia broke out, another problem arose. We had succeeded in preventing a Communist revolution in Germany, we had moreover successfully immunized the German people against its dangerous ideas. But as far as I saw Germany would be subject to Bolshevist terror from outside in case she was defeated in her fight against the Asiatic danger of Stalinism. Therefore I had always passionately opposed a war against the Soviet Union. When, however, it did break out, I felt I was a soldier and had to obey orders. Whichever of my ranks you will consider, gentlemen, the Chef des SS-Hauptamtes und Ergänzungsamtes der Waffen-SS, the Verbindungsoffizier zum Ostministerium und Leiter seines politischen Führungsstabes, the Chef des Kriegegefangenenwesens - I trust you will set to work full of good will, and I am sure you will find in the end that all my activities were guided by the idea: How can I help to save my people and Europe and the whole civilized world besides from the chaos of Bolshevist terrorism?

As Chef des SS-Hauptamtes und des Ergänzungsamtes der Waffen-SS I succeeded in recruiting volunteers among the young people of all European nations to fight against the Red Army. Mr. Freeman, a British officer, in his affidavit attached as No. 36, confirms my intentions.

As a functionary of the Ministerium Rosenberg für die besetzten Ostgebiete I worked for a voluntary union of free peoples against Soviet Bolshevism.

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As Chef des Kriegsgefangenenwesens my actions and neglects were guided by the perception that the advance of Asiatic Bolshevism into the heart of Europe would not only destroy Germany but western culture in the whole European continent and even America at last.

I can see today that, from a historical point of view, gross errors, unheard of until then, were committed. I do think though, that it was not I who was responsible for them; and those errors for which I may be held responsible were not caused by evil or even criminal intentions after all.

On the contrary: I have never been a warmonger, I have never judged persons, even if they belonged to our enemies, by any other measures but their own deeds, as I knew perfectly well that there are as many good French or good Russians as there are good Germans, and that, on the other hand, there are criminals among all nations. I honestly tried to help the weak and defenceless, I tried to moderate, or, if I was able to so, to mitigate undeserved misery, whereas I fought the evil pitilessly with every means that was at my command. Immediately after my having been made Chef des Kriegsgefangenenwesens I found out under what deplorable conditions of life the prisoners of war from the eastern countries had to live, and I altered them on my own account. Opposing Goebbels' slogan of the "sub-human beings" in the east and the orders of the leaders of the State and the Party I managed to provide them with a standard of life equal to that of the prisoners from the west, and I did all this regardless of the consequences for my own life.

If you will kindly regard my actions before and during the war from this point of view, many of those which the Prosecution Board thought were criminal will appear to you as having been done at that time to do my duty towards my own German people as well as towards the whole of the civilized world, who have now decided unanimously to unite against Bolshevism - and you will judge accordingly. The dreadful crimes and the malicious and criminal way of fighting of the North Korean bands which the U. S. Army and the soldiers of the South Korean Republic have to face now are not the fault of the North Koreans only: they are inspired by Bolshevism, and everybody knows this today. In such a deadly fight between good and evil there ought to be applied principles and measures different from those valiant under normal conditions, especially if whole nations - as the Germans then and the South Koreans and Americans today - firmly believe they are fighting for a good cause against an abominable enemy.

As I do not happen to know which particular circumstances will be favourable for the granting of this petition, I beg to submit a detailed report. The Contents

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annexed to this letter will, I hope, serve to help you find those items which will be decisive for your vote, gentlemen. If you have got the power to grant this

I beg you to consider whether I could be released from the War Criminals Prison to go to my home in Gerstetten, Wurttemberg, on parole d'honneur until a final decision about this petition will have been reached.

I remain

Yours very truly,

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